



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

**Release Date:** August 11, 2005

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## **SBA Opens Disaster Centers to Help Winter Storm Victims**

**Sacramento, CA** – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), declared **Los Angeles** and **Orange Counties** and the adjacent counties of **Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego** and **Ventura** a disaster area due to damage caused by the severe winter storms that occurred from **February 12** through **February 24, 2005**.

This includes the June 1 landslide damage in the Bluebird Canyon area of Laguna Beach that was caused by the February storms. SBA's disaster declaration makes low-interest, Federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and non-profit organizations whose property was damaged by the storms.

Based on the August 4 denial of the State's appeal request (see attached article for background), SBA is able to declare these seven counties a disaster area. "I encourage anyone with damages from the February storms and June landslide to apply for these loans as quickly as possible," Barreto said.

According to Bruce Thompson, SBA Regional Administrator, "SBA representatives will be on hand at six locations to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application." See the attached list of locations and hours of operation.

According to Thompson, "Disaster loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property."

"Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to small businesses," Thompson said. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA's disaster offices may obtain information and a loan application by calling SBA toll free at **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call TTY (800) 877-8339. Completed applications may be mailed to the following address: U. S. Small Business Administration, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155-2243.

Applications for property damage must be returned to SBA by **October 11, 2005**. Applications for economic injury must be returned by **May 10, 2006**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).*

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office. P.O. Box 419004. Sacramento, CA 95841

## Southern California Winter Storms

### Disaster Center Locations

<u>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</u> SBA Disaster Office City of West Hollywood 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard (Between La Cienega Blvd. & Fairfax Ave.) West Hollywood, CA 90009	<b><i>Opens Monday, August 15 at 1:00 pm</i></b>  HOURS: Mondays – Wednesdays 9:00 am – 5:30 pm until further notice
<u>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</u> SBA Disaster Office Pasadena Fire Headquarters 199 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 550 (Across from the Hilton Hotel) Pasadena, CA 91101	<b><i>Opens Thursday, August 18</i></b>  HOURS: Thursdays – Fridays 9:00 am – 5:30 pm Saturdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm until further notice
<u>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</u>  SBA will be opening a Disaster Office in <b>Long Beach</b> the week of August 15.	Please contact SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 for location, dates & hours of operation
<u>ORANGE COUNTY</u> SBA Disaster Office Laguna Beach City Hall Recreation Department, Conference Room 505 West Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651	<b><i>Opens Thursday, August 18</i></b>  HOURS: Thursdays – Fridays 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm until further notice
<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u>  SBA will be opening a Disaster Office in <b>Carlsbad</b> the week of August 15.	Please contact SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 for location, dates & hours of operation
<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> SBA Disaster Office Tierra-Santa Recreation Center Hex Room 11238 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard San Diego, CA 92124	<b><i>Opens Thursday, August 18</i></b>  HOURS: Thursdays – Fridays 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm until further notice

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# ***San Bernardino Sun News***

Article Published: Monday, August 08, 2005 - 7:01:28 PM PST

## **In Brief**

By Staff Reports

### **Federal agency turns down appeal**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has denied an appeal by the state Office of Emergency Services for an individual assistance program for victims of February's storms.

The decision, announced Thursday, denies federal individual assistance to residents and business owners of Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

The OES applied for the assistance in February, and FEMA turned the request down in June. The OES appealed the decision.

Greg Renick, OES spokesman, said four residential structures in San Bernardino County were destroyed or heavily damaged in February's storms, and 48 were classified as having minor damage.

"We're working toward possibly getting federal assistance through the (Small Business Administration) or other sources," Renick said. "We recognize that the storms have an impact on people's lives."

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